

## Message Text

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ORIGIN OES-05

INFO OCT-01 ARA-10 ISO-00 FEA-01 AID-05 CEQ-01 CIAE-00

OFA-01 COME-00 EB-07 EPA-04 INR-07 IO-11 L-03 NSF-02

NSC-05 NSAE-00 PM-04 SS-15 SP-02 INT-05 CG-00 DOTE-00

NSCE-00 SSO-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 /089 R

DRAFTED BY OES/OFA/FA:LNSCHOWENGERDT:DPD

APPROVED BY ARA/NC:FJDEVINE

ARA/NC/C:DWCOX

ARA/LA/NC:HPJOHNSON

----- 014395

O P 102255Z FEB 76

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY BOGOTA IMMEDIATE

INFO AMEMBASSY QUITO PRIORITY

AMCONSUL GUAYAQUIL

AMEMBASSY PANAMA

COGARD WASHDC PRIORITY

COMUSNASO FTAMADOR PRIORITY

USSOUTHCOM PRIORITY

COMPACAREA COGARD SFRAN PRIORITY

COMLANTAREA COGUARD NYK PRIORITY

CNO PRIORITY

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: OCLR OGEN CO

SUBJECT: M/V ST. PETER, POTENTIAL POLLUTION INCIDENT

REF:USDAO QUITO 061627Z FEB 76(NOTAL)

1. INFORMAL REQUEST RECEIVED BY DEPARTMENT FROM COLOMBIAN  
EMBASSY WASHINGTON FOR INFORMATION ON ASSISTANCE USG MIGHT  
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BE ABLE TO PROVIDE TO GOC IN PREVENTION, CONTROL AND

CLEAN-UP OF SUBJECT POLLUTION. REFTEL DESCRIBES BACKGROUND.  
AN OIL SLICK THREE MILES WIDE AND FIFTEEN MILES LONG HAS  
BEEN REPORTED DRIFTING WITH VESSEL AS OF MORNING 10 FEB.

2. COLOMBIAN EMBASSY HAS BEEN ADVISED AS FOLLOWS: US  
COAST GUARD HAS EXPERTS IN POLLUTION FIELD WHO MIGHT BE  
MADE AVAILABLE TO ADVISE GOC IN THIS CASE. COMMERCIAL  
(PRIVATE ENTERPRISE) ASSISTANCE IS PROBABLY AVAILABLE  
THROUGH US SOURCES TO PROVIDE MATERIAL AID IN PREVENTION  
AND CLEANUP. TO THE EXTENT THAT COMMERCIAL ASSISTANCE IS  
NOT AVAILABLE, US COAST GUARD HAS CAPABILITY, IF NOT IN  
USE ELSEWHERE, TO PROVIDE MATERIAL ASSISTANCE. COMMERCIAL  
ASSISTANCE PROBABLY BEST HANDLED THROUGH COAST GUARD UNDER  
COAST GUARD SUPERVISION. IN ANY EVENT, IF USG ASSISTANCE  
IS DESIRED, GOC MUST FORMALLY REQUEST IT AND MUST AGREE TO  
REIMBURSE USG FOR ALL COSTS ASSOCIATED WITH IT. FYI,

SECTION 607 APPROVAL ALSO REQUIRED, BUT APPROVAL VIRTUALLY  
CERTAIN. END FYI.

3. GENERALLY RECOGNIZED INTERNATIONAL OBLIGATION ON  
POLLUTER TO PAY FOR DAMAGE CAUSED REGARDLESS OF FAULT.  
GOC WOULD RECOUP COSTS FROM VESSEL OWNERS. THIS  
PROCEDURE HAS BEEN SUCCESSFULLY FOLLOWED IN OTHER INTER-  
NATIONAL POLLUTION CASES; FOR EXAMPLE, THE METULLA CASE  
IN STRAITS OF MAGELLAN LAST YEAR.

4. AT PRESENT, INTEND TO HANDLE ARRANGEMENTS IN WASHING-  
TON, BUT IF US ASSISTANCE IS RENDERED, FOCUS WILL  
PROBABLY SHIFT TO EMBASSY BOGOTA WHEN US PERSONNEL  
PROCEED TO SCENE OF INCIDENT. EMBASSY MAY DRAW ON ABOVE  
IN RESPONSE TO INQUIRIES AS NECESSARY. KISSINGER

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** n/a  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 10 FEB 1976  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** n/a  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** n/a  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:**  
**Disposition Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1976STATE032711  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** LNSCHOWENGERDT:DPD  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** N/A  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Film Number:** D760051-0012  
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**Image Path:**  
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**Line Count:** 93  
**Locator:** TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM  
**Office:** ORIGIN OES  
**Original Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
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**Page Count:** 2  
**Previous Channel Indicators:** n/a  
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**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** n/a  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Authority:** ShawDG  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 08 SEP 2004  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review History:** RELEASED <08 SEP 2004 by meiwc>; APPROVED <08 SEP 2004 by ShawDG>  
**Review Markings:**

Margaret P. Grafeld  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
04 MAY 2006

**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Referrals:** n/a  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** M/V ST. PETER, POTENTIAL POLLUTION INCIDENT  
**TAGS:** OCLR, OGEN, CO  
**To:** BOGOTA  
**Type:** TE  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006